

Nutrition/Health Volume  
Certification Section

Risk Factor 381 (~~Dental Problems~~ Oral Health Conditions) (2.03900)

ER# 2.03900

Authority 2013~~4~~ 7 CFR 246.7(e); Transmittal of Revised WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria June 25, 2012

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POLICY:

Oral health conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Dental caries, often referred to as “cavities” or “tooth decay”, is a common chronic, infectious, transmissible disease resulting from tooth-adherent specific bacteria, that metabolize sugars to produce acid which, over time, demineralizes tooth structure (1).

- Periodontal diseases are infections that affect the tissues and bone that support the teeth. Periodontal diseases are classified according to the severity of the disease. The two major stages are gingivitis and periodontitis. Gingivitis is a milder and reversible form of periodontal disease that only affects the gums. Gingivitis may lead to more serious, destructive forms of periodontal disease called periodontitis.(2)

More information on types of periodontal disease is available at:

<http://www.perio.org/consumer/2a.html>.

- Tooth loss, ineffectively replaced teeth or oral infections which impair the ability to ingest food in adequate quantity or quality

Presence of oral health conditions diagnosed, documented, or reported by a physician, dentist, or someone working under a physician’s orders, or as self reported by applicant/participant/caregiver.

Risk factor 381 (Dental Problems) shall be assigned to participants who have qualifying dental risks or oral problems. Procedures for obtaining data, documentation and assigning risk factors shall be followed.

PROCEDURES:

A. Obtaining Data:

1. The ~~HPA~~, WIC Certifier or CPA must assess for dental risks at certification and mid-certification assessment (MCA) by either:
  - a. ~~Performing an oral inspection as outlined in the Health and Nutrition Assessment Handbook (HNAH).~~
  - b. Asking nutrition assessment or mid-certification nutrition assessment questions within MOWINS. ~~the following Mandatory Dental Health Questions (MDHQs):~~
    - i. ~~Have you (or your infant/child) visited a dentist within the past 12 months? If no, continue with questions number 2 through 4, below, as appropriate.~~

- a) If yes, did the dentist indicate any dental problem?
- b) If no, no further assessment is needed, except for prenatal women and infants.
  - 1) For prenatal women, ask question number 4 below to screen for gum infection of pregnancy.
  - 2) For infants, ask question number two (2) below to screen for baby bottle tooth decay.
- i. Do you (or your infant/child) have tooth decay (including baby bottle tooth decay), broken teeth, bleeding gums, gum infection (periodontal disease)\*, missing teeth and/or misplaced teeth that make chewing difficult?
- ii. Do you (or your child) avoid certain foods that you would otherwise eat, or choose softer foods, because of chewing problems?
- iii. For pregnant woman only: Do your gums feel swollen, sensitive, bleed easily or have a reddened appearance?

B. Documenting and Assessing:

- 1. The HPA, WIC Certifier or CPA shall document in MOWINS the following:
  - a. how the oral assessment was performed {oral inspection (OI) or MDHQ's}
  - b. the results of the oral assessment (e.g. MDHQ's asked and participant reported no problems with oral health and/or chewing)
- 1. Oral Health questions shall be assessed and documented in MOWINS by either:
  - a. HPA, WIC Certifier or CPA indicating how the oral assessment was performed and results of the oral inspection; or
  - b. WIC Certifier or CPA documenting oral health questions within initial nutrition assessment questions in the MOWINS Nutrition Assessment tab; or
  - c. CPA documenting oral health questions within the mid-certification nutrition assessment questions in the MOWINS Nutrition Assessment tab.

C. Assigning:

- 1. RF 381 may be system assigned for children and women based upon oral health questions documented within the initial nutrition assessment questions in the MOWINS Nutrition Assessment tab.
- 2. The HPA, WIC Certifier or CPA shall manually assign risk factor 381 if any of the following exist:
  - a. There is diagnosis of dental problems by a dentist, physician or a health care provider working under the orders of a physician.
  - b. Baby bottle tooth decay (also known as nursing caries or early childhood caries), smooth surface decay is present in infants and children.
  - c. Tooth decay, broken teeth, gum infection (periodontal disease), tooth loss and/or ineffectively replaced teeth that impair the ability to chew food in adequate

quantity or quality are present in women and children.

- d. Gingivitis is present in pregnant women.
- e. Oral inspection indicates a problem.

D. Providing Appropriate Counseling See [Counseling Guides](#) for suggested counseling). Refer to the [Nutrition Training Manual](#) for more information. Additional education suggestions are located in the *Implications for WIC Nutrition Services* section of the USDA Regulations and Justification for RF 381.

- 1. Counseling and education shall be provided by the CPA.
- 2. Document counseling contact in MOWINS.

E. Providing Referrals

- 1. Refer to dental health care provider, if needed; provide appropriate referral information and document in MOWINS.

\*Periodontal disease (gum infection) is evidenced by swollen, red, bleeding and inflamed gums.